Chapter 72

Flowing Thing

将棋会館

Meijin
Souya Touji

The challenge match

To a beautiful future.

The 43rd Newcomer Championship Commemorative Match

The Heisei Year 23 Newcomer King
Kiriyama Rei 5-Dan

Kiriyama Rei

I ASKED THE DESIGNER TO MAKE SOMETHING COOL!!

I GOT IT DONE AT THAT NAWATA KOUHEI OFFICE

The relief printer!

And I held out a tiny bit on the printing!

DON'T TELL US THAT, TOKU-CHAN!

将棋会

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY DID A CRAZY POSTER LIKE THIS GET MADE?

BUT THIS IS JUST A SIMPLE COM-MEMORATIVE MATCH BETWEEN A NEWCOMER KING AND A MEIJIN, RIGHT?

WHAT'S EVEN GOING ON HERE? THE DESIGN IS SO COOL.

WHAT IS THIS...

WHAT IS THIS POSTER?

I KNEW YOU GUYS HAD AN EYE FOR THIS SORTA THING!!

HEY! NOTICED, DID YA?! AIN'T IT AWESOME ?!

IT'S MADE OF INSANELY GOOD PAPER AND THE LETTERS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FLOATING ON TOP OF THE IMAGES...

AND THERE ARE... MATTE PARTS AND SPARKLY PARTS, TOO, AREN'T THERE...?

...Were these specially manufactured..?

SFX: BISHIIH

clearly gigantic!!

Also... Er, well, the picture of the hotel it's being held at is ...um...

Also... How do I say this... This probably isn't professionally printed, but rather just printed from a computer printer ...

Just lined up all the needed information

The 33rd Kishou Championship

The Tranquil Inn

Hotel Shiroizumi

I mean, this is our poster, right?! When were these photos taken? They're oddly grainy!

When are those photos you used from?!

Eeh!?

SFX: JIMIIIN (DUUU)
HARAHARA HARAHARA (TEARS FLOWING)

WE'RE IN A RECESSION! WE CAN'T GET SPONSORS SO WE'RE BARELY SCRAPING BY!!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!

MY ETERNAL KISHOU TITLE IS ON THE LINE YOU KNOW!

GAAH

Just because Kiriyama and Souya are a bit young and kinda cute?! So that's how you treat them?!

How could you ?!!

And the poster size sure seems small!

KUUUH

Chronic Gastritis (Just before a stomach ulcer ☆)

THE ☆ BATTLE OF THE SICK PATIENTS

A Step Away from Senile Pneumonia

Buhoh Gehoh Gehoh

Gehuo Gehuo Gohuh Gohuuh Gehuo

VIDEO RECORDING

WHAT EVEN WAS THAT? THE BATTLE OF THE SICK PATIENTS?!

YOU TWO HAVE WAY TOO POOR HEALTH!!

ANYHOW, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FIRST GAME?!!

NOBODY'S GONNA COME TO SEE THAT! BOTH YOUR PHYSICALITY AND PLAY WERE RICKETY!

No, it's not! Or rather, that's supposed to be like that!

Gyoku head... The gyoku's "Head" is a bit thin, isn't it?!

Gehoh Gohuh I-Isn't Shimada's gyoku-head looking a bit thin?

ON TOP OF THAT, IT WAS AN UGLY PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE!

No Response

SFX: GLNGLN... LLL...

T/N: THE SHOWA ERA IS FROM 1926 TO 1989.

THIS... IS "BAD", ISN'T IT?

JUST BETWEEN ME AND YOU... THIS REALLY LOOKS LIKE A LOSING MOVE TO ME...!

...5-1 GIN LEFT?

...HUH? 5-1 GIN LEFT?

WHOA, SHIMADA 8-DAN... NOW OPTS FOR 5-1 GIN LEFT!!

Huh!!

WE HAD THIS AT-HOME FEEL WATCHING IT, SO WE ACTUALLY GOT REALLY EXCITED. (WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE).

IN RECENT YEARS, IT'S NORMAL TO JUST MAKE YOUR MOVES QUIETLY!!

WHAT ERA IS THIS SHOGI FROM?! THE SHOWA ERA? ARE YOU GUYS STUCK IN THE SHOWA ERA?!

WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT KIND OF SCENE OF CARNAGE WAS THAT?

Grumbling and teeth grinding and abusive language!!!

YEAH...

IT WAS KIND OF EXCITING WATCHING THE GAME STREAMED OVER THE INTERNET THOUGH.

The person that did the big board commentary

That's no good, right?! I think he's screwed now!

It's true! 5-1 Gin Left?!

For real?!

*It seems that so few people were at the big board commentary room that everyone could sit in a circle

Internet

VIDEO RECORDING REPLAY

SFX: BOSO... (GRUMBLING)

IT'S MY FAULT?!

IF GAKUTO WERE THE CHALLENGER, THEN WE'D HAVE FEMALE FANS SWARMING THE PLACE!!

Shit! It's all your fault, Shimada!!

KIIH

HUUUH?!

I'll be waiting for you...

The Bus Kishou Championship Spectator Tour

Lunch party with both competitors included

LOOK AT SOUYA AND KIRIYAMA!!

IF THAT'S FRUSTRATING YOU, THEN GET YOUR HEALTH BACK AND GO GET US SOME SPONSORS!!

Look how popular they are!!

President's Head

日景観光さくら観光

出版 書店 カス子

ズラーッ

SFX: ZURAAAHH

IT'S TRUE THAT OUR PHYSICALITIES ARE PRETTY CRAPPY.

AND THAT GAME ITSELF WAS UNBELIEVABLY AWFUL.

BUT WHATEVER SORTA MATCH IT IS, A WIN IS A WIN.

MINE, THAT IS.

AND...

YOU CAN BET NEXT TIME WILL BE MY WIN, TOO.

THE KISHOU TITLE IS ONE THING I'M NEVER HANDING OVER TO ANYBODY- IT'S MY LIFEBLOOD.

.....

YANAGI-HARA-SAN...

将棋会館

SOUYA IS POURING ALL HE HAS INTO THE MEIJIN CHAMPIONSHIP, AND OTHER PEOPLE AREN'T PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO IT.

SO THIS IS THE ONE TITLE I'M NOT LETTING GO OF!

I'M HOLDING ONTO IT IF IT KILLS ME!!

FAREWELL, GENTLEMEN!!

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA...

HUUUH?

Could you be any more blunt?!

Did you think that would sound cool or some-thing?!

Go home already! Get some rest, would you?!

BUT, YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT,

I'LL BE USING THESE POSTERS

TO GET PEOPLE EXCITED.

HEY, YOU TWO,

KEEP FIGHTING LIKE THAT.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

Souya and Kiriyama's posters

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE REALLY...

ALL THAT GOOD AT BEING FRONT AND CENTER.

ON SOUYA

AND KIRI-YAMA, TOO.

GO A BIT EASIER, WOULD YOU?

I'M NOT GONNA KILL THE GOLDEN GOOSE.

I'VE KNOWN SOUYA FOR A WHILE, TOO. I KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HIM.

I KNOW.

.....YEAH. SO KIRI-YAMA...

IS FINALLY GONNA COLLIDE

——WITH SOUYA...

HEY, KIRI-YAMA.

THERE YOU ARE.

SFX: BYUH... (SQUEEZE) BOTAH

Souya Touji

Not on the nota-tions!!

AHHH!

He didn't hear me at all.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S REAAALLY CONCEN-TRATING...

ARE YOU GONNA WEAR A KIMONO AND THAT SORTA THING?

AH, NO. THE PRESI-DENT SAID MY UNIFORM IS FINE.

AH, SENSEI...

YES. THERE ISN'T ALL THAT MUCH TO PREPARE.

SFX: PAN PAN

YOU ALL READY?

HEY, KIRIYAMA, THAT COMMEM-ORATIVE MATCH IS MORIOKA, RIGHT?

UM... YES. BUT IT SORT OF DOESN'T FEEL REAL.

YOU NERVOUS?

OH, RIGHT.

SENSEI...

OH, I SEE...

SO THEY RESOLVED IT, HUH?

YES.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE...

SHE HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE ABOUT HER.

LIKE...

SORTA FLUFFY, OR SOME-THING...

LIKE SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE...

SO NOW SHE CAN RELAX LIKE THIS

AND GET SOFT...

YOU MUST'VE BEEN GLAD

EEHYAAAA

UM. WELL, SENSEI, I

DON'T THINK THAT I

REALISTICALLY WAS ANY USE TO HER IN THE END

—IT REALLY

MAKES ME WONDER HOW AWFUL SHE MUST'VE BEEN FEELING FOR SO, SO LONG...

HUH?

AND HOW DID SHE RESPOND?

UH

YES

HUH?

WELL

.....

DID... YOU SAY THAT TO HER?

.....

UM,

YES...

I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID, REMEMBER?

OF COURSE I COULD TELL THAT

SHE SAID, "THAT'S NOT TRUE,"——

RIGHT?

HUH? BUT SENSEI,

HOW...

IS SUCH AN UPRIGHT GIRL THAT UNDERSTANDS ALL KINDS OF THINGS...

AND ABOUT HOW HINA-CHAN

ABOUT HOW YOU WERE PUTTING EVERYTHING YOU HAD INTO HELPING HER,

THE WORLD DOESN'T RUN PURELY ON RESULTS.

IT'S NOT JUST RESULTS THAT REACH PEOPLE.

RESULTS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT...

——KIRI-YAMA,

THANKS.

GOOD LUCK IN THE COM-MEMORATIVE MATCH

so I could attend the evening party,

—And

上野
Ueno

I met up with people from the newspaper company and the association

and got on a shinkansen.

——And not too far from me

Souya Meijin was seated...

he looked as silent as the bottom of a pond.

—Seeing his profile with his eyes closed...

—Quietness and a violent storm...

That was the beginning of those four days I could never have imagined beforehand.

Chapter 72 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 5

RYOKANS AND HOTELS FREQUENTLY USED FOR TITLE MATCHES

Shogi is a traditional part of Japan's culture. One could say that the practice of playing title matches while wearing kimonos in Japanese-style rooms is a transmission of that culture. Regarding the locations where the title matches take place, they are sometimes said to be places that those on the sponsor side are interested in. Specifically, they're decided so people will think of that particular place when they think of a that particular shogi tournament.

One famous place that comes to mind is 'Jinya', located in Kanegawa Prefecture. This ryokan is where Masuda Kouzou caused the famous 'Jinya Incident' and it where the Ou-i Championship is frequently held. At the Shogi City, Tendou, has an image for being the location of the 'Taki no Yu Hotel' where the Ryuu-ou Championship is frequently held. 'Ginpa Villa' in Aichi Prefecture has an excellent unbroken view of Mikawa Bay and is very popular among shogi players.

The Female Shogi Competition the Kurashiki Fujihana Championship is, as you would expect, a competition held by the city of Kurashiki in Okayama Prefecture. And the 2nd game of every year, and also the 3rd and definitive game if it's one-win one-loss each, is held in Kurashiki. By the way, the match is open to the public so lots of fans flock there. Shimizu Ichiyo 6-dan, the person that has held the Kurashiki Fujihana title for a very long time, even calls Kurashiki her second home.

Also among the female shogi competitions is the Female Oushou Championship which, due to its sponsor being Miyazaki Prefecture's Kirishima Sake, the first match of the competition takes place in that area. And this is a bit of a digression, but I've heard that when one takes the Female Oushou title, they receive one large-sized sho bottle of shochu. So once when I held a party at my house, the current title holder at the time arrived carrying one of those huge bottles. This is extremely rare, but sometimes games take place in famous shrines and temples. They are held in high-class rooms which people cannot often enter. For both the competitors and the staff, these are emotionally moving places undoubtedly make memories that last a lifetime, but it seems that behind the scenes it tends to be a very trying experience. Why, you ask? Well first, because they have no accommodations there, they need to go back and forth between the site of the match and the hotel. Also, because they are historical buildings, you can't be touching things carelessly, so it's quite a lot of trouble to setup monitors and TV wiring.

A long time ago, in Mount Kouya in winter, there was a match between Ooyama Yasuharu-sensei and Masuda Kouzou-sensei that went down in shogi history. This match to determine who had the right to challenge the then-Meijin, Kimura Yoshio took place on Mount Kouya in the dead of winter with snow falling. In the third and deciding final game, Masuda suffered a devastating loss after missing that he was in check. And so Ooyama-sensei gained the right to challenge, defeated Kimura Meijin, and became Meijin. Masuda's blunder (This was in the 20's of the Showa era) was undoubtedly partially due to fatigue as a result of the cold. In his last years, he is said to have said so himself.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 7

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